

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 209

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

ELECTION CODE: Provides relative to hours polls are required to be open on election day

## 1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:134(E) and 541, relative to voting; to provide for the hours  
3 of voting; to provide for the time for opening of the polls; to provide for the hours  
4 of the principal office of the registrar on election day; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:134(E) and 541 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
8 follows:

9 §134. Office hours

10 \* \* \*

11 E.(1) On election days the principal office of the registrar shall remain open  
12 from ~~6:00~~ 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. The registrar or a deputy registrar designated  
13 by him shall remain in the office during that time.

14 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, on  
15 days when a regularly scheduled congressional primary election is held, the principle  
16 office of the registrar shall remain open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. The registrar  
17 or a deputy registrar designated by him shall remain in the office during that time.

18 \* \* \*

- 1           §541. Opening and closing of the polls
- 2                   A. In the primary and general elections, the polls shall open at ~~6:00~~ 7:00 a.m.
- 3           on election day and shall close at 8:00 p.m. on election day.
- 4                   B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, in
- 5           regularly scheduled congressional primary elections and elections held at the same
- 6           time, the polls shall open at 6:00 a.m. on election day and shall close at 8 p.m. on
- 7           election day.
- 8           Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2013.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB No. 209

**Abstract:** For elections other than regularly scheduled congressional primary elections and elections held at the same time, provides that the polls open at 7:00 a.m. instead of 6:00 a.m. and requires the principal office of the registrar to open on election day at 7:00 a.m. instead of 6:00 a.m.

Present law provides that the polls shall open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on election day and that any voter in line to vote at 8:00 p.m. shall be allowed to vote.

Proposed law provides that the polls shall open at 7:00 a.m. instead of 6:00 a.m. for elections other than regularly scheduled congressional primary elections and elections held at the same time. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the principal office of the registrar to remain open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on election day. Requires the registrar or a deputy registrar designated by him to remain in the office during that time.

Proposed law provides that the principal office of the registrar shall open at 7:00 a.m. instead of 6:00 a.m. for elections other than regularly scheduled congressional primary elections and elections held at the same time. Otherwise retains present law.

Effective Jan. 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 18:134(E) and 541)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

##### House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Provides that proposed law does not apply to regularly scheduled congressional primary elections and elections held at the same time.